

Judicial Internship Program

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

What an Internship Is

The Judicial Internship Program is an education opportunity designed to provide **law students** with a broad overview of what occurs in the San Diego Superior Court. The program provides a behind-the-scenes overview of the practice of law in Superior Court so that students can apply what they have learned in law school to real cases and better understand expectations of licensed attorneys. The Court has potential assignments in civil, criminal, family, juvenile and probate at various branches in the County (Central, North, East and South).

When is the Internship?

Each year, the court hosts three programs in the Fall, Winter/Spring and Summer. Each internship session begins with an orientation and then students are required to serve a minimum of 12 weeks and a minimum of 20 hours per week in their assignment.

Who May Apply?

Law students may apply who meet the qualifications set forth below. The Court prefers students in their second or third year of study.

What Interns Do

Each student accepted into the internship program is assigned to a Legal Services Staff Attorney mentor. Interns assist the staff attorneys in their tasks, which include reviewing moving and opposing points and authorities and preparing confidential written memoranda summarizing the litigants' versions of the facts and law as well as the student's independent analysis. Each memo then concludes with a recommended ruling. In the criminal area, students also work on proposed orders regarding petitions for various writs and other motions presented by incarcerated prisoners. Various procedures are explained and emphasized. The attorney mentor reviews each memo and proposed order before presentation to the Judge for final approval.

In addition to the specific assignment, each student is encouraged to observe various courtroom scenarios in order to see diverse lawyering skills unfold in a real world setting. They will also see the results of a wide range of techniques used to argue a matter in order to determine which skills they want to employ once they obtain a state bar license.

Application Qualifications

The Superior Court Judicial Internship Program has been designed for second and third-year law students who have nearly completed their legal education and who wish to apply

what has been learned in practical situations. Students qualify on a “whole person basis” and must have excellent grades, good writing and communication skills, a wide variety of non-legal experience and the ability to work well with others and follow directions. Students must have completed their law school’s evidence course in order to be considered for an internship with the court.

How to Apply

Those interested students should send a cover letter, resume, transcript, and brief writing sample to:

Ken Jensen
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Division
Superior Court of California
County of San Diego
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Questions can be answered about the Program by calling Ken Jensen at 619-450-7242.

Summer: Applications for summer internships must be submitted for consideration on or before January 31st of the year the internship will take place.

Fall: Applications for fall internships must be submitted for consideration on or before March 15th of the year the internship will take place.

Spring: Applications for spring internships must be submitted for consideration on or before October 15th of the year prior to the spring session.

Please do not contact any individual San Diego Superior Court Judge regarding judicial internships.